Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

PAGE 01 CONAKR 01446 171654Z

46
ACTION AF-18

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9088
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : IPFOR GV SG IV
SUBJECT : SEKOU TOURE FORMALLY LAUNCHES HIS HOLY WAR OF WORDS AGAINST PRESIDENTS SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET

REF: CONAKRY 1425 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON SEPTEMBER 14 PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE LAUNCHED A HOLY WAR OF WORDS AGAINST PRESIDENTS SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL STRINGS OF EPITHETS, TOURE CLAIMED TO HAVE GIVEN SENGHOR "PROOF" FOR TOURE'S CHARGES THAT SENGHOR WAS ACTIVELY HELPING TOURE'S ENEMIES AND TO HAVE RECEIVED NO RESPONSE FROM DAKAR. THIS OFFENSIVE DEFENSE BY TOURE IS INTENDED TO THWART THOSE HE BELIEVES ARE WORKING FOR HIS OVERTHROW, TO DIVERT HIS NEIGHBORS' ATTENTION FROM GUINEA, AND REINFORCE TOURE'S REPUTATION AS THE LEADING PROGRESSIVE IN AFRICA. THE NEXT STEP IN THE PRESENT SCENARIO COULD WELL BE SOME SPECTACULAR ARRESTS OF "INTERNAL ACCOMPLICES". END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 CONAKR 01446 171654Z

1. A "GENERAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRAITORS" WAS LAUNCHED IN CONAKRY ON SEPTEMBER 14, THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUINEAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S (PDG) DECISION TO REJECT CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH FRANCE. THE CAMPAIGN BEGAN WHEN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU LED PRAYERS AGAINST THE AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND ZIONISM IN VARIOUS MOSQUES IN CONAKRY. PRAYERS WERE FOLLOWED BY A MASS RALLY AT WHICH PRESIDENT TOURE DELIVERED ANOTHER BLISTERING ATTACK ON PRESIDENTS SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET.

2. BANNERS CARRIED AT THE RALLY PROCLAIMED IT AS THE "OPENING OF THE GENERAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRAITORS". OTHER BANNERS CLAIMED "WE WILL CARRY THE WAR TO ALL COUNTRIES WHICH SHELTER ANTI-GUINEAN TRAITORS", AND "NO DIALOGUE WITH PUPPET GOVERNMENTS."

3. PRESIDENT TOURE'S ADDRESS WAS MAINLY DEVOTED TO A READING AND ATTEMPTED REFUTATION OF A STATEMENT TOURE SAID HAD BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE SENEGALESE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO TOURE'S EARLIER CHARGES. THE MAIN POINT OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS WAS THAT HE HAS PROOF OF SENGHOR'S SUPPORT OF "ANTI"GUINEAN" ELEMENTS AND GAVE IT TO SENEGALESE DEFENSE MINISTER MAYGATE LO, WHO CAME HERE SOME THREE WEEKS AGO AFTER TOURE HAD SUGGESTED SENGHOR SEND "UNE DELEGATION DE CONFIANCE" TO CONAKRY SO TOURE COULD SHOW IT HIS EVIDENCE. SO FAR, TOURE SAID, THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY FROM SENGHOR.

4. THROUGHOUT TOURE WAS CAREFUL TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SENEGALESE AND IVORIAN PEOPLE WHITH WHOM HE ASSOCIATED HIMSELF AND THEIR PRESIDENTS WHOM HE CASTIGATED AS TRAITORS TO AFRICA AND LACKEYS OF FRENCH COLONIALISM. LATER THE CROWD DREW THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSIONS AND SHOUTED "SENGHOR", "HOUPHOUET" "TO THE STAKE". TOURE OFFERED THE GUINEAN REVO-LUTION AS THE INCARNATION OF THE "HOPES OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE" AND HIS PARTY AS THE "AFRICAN PARTY" THE "PARTY OF THE PROLE-TARIAT OF THE WORLD".

5. AT ONE POINT TOURE CLAIMED SENGHOR HAD SAID PUBLICLY THAT SENEGAL DID NOT WISH TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH GUINEA. ACCORDING TO TOURE, SENGHOR WAS LYING BECAUSE SENGHOR'S ACTIONS AND PUBLIC UTTERENCES DID NOT COINCIDE. TOURE SAID HE
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COULD GIVE SENGHOR A LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SENEGALESE PRESIDENT WHICH WOULD DISPROVE SENGHOR'S CLAIM.
COMMENT: THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS THAT TOURE INTENDED TO BREAK RELATIONS. RATHER HIS RECENT ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS SEEM TO SHOW THAT HE IS TRYING TO PROVOKE HIS NEIGHBORS INTO BREAKING. END COMMENT.

6. IN ANSWER TO SENGHOR'S COUNTERCHARGES, TOURE SUGGESTED BOTH CHIEFS OF STATE INVITE THE OAU OR THE UN TO SUPERVISE A PLEBESCITE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY RULE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THEIR PEOPLE. TOURE SAID HE FELT THIS WOULD RESULT IN HIS BEING RETURNED TO POWER WHILE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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SENGHOR WOULD BE SHOWN UP AS A MAN WHO RULED WITHOUT THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT.

7. SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR DIALLO RETURNED TO CONAKRY LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 15 AND SALUTED HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES WHO WERE AT THE AIRPORT AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF GUYANA. LATER THAT NIGHT DIALLO WAS IN THE SECOND ROW JUST BEHIND PRESIDENT TOURE DURING A SPECIAL CULTURAL PERFORMANCE.

8. THE SAME THEMES DEVELOPED ON SEPTEMBER 14 WERE REPEATED IN A "MARCH OF FIDELITY" STAGED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR FEDERATION ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. IN AN ADDRESS TO THIS GROUP TOURE DESCENDED TO BATHOS IN HIS PERSONAL ATTACKS ON SENGHOR.

9. COMMENT: WHY THE HOLY WAR OF INSULTS AND PROVOCATIONS? IN HIS SEPTEMBER 14 SPEECH PRESIDENT TOURE SAID THAT THE BASES FOR HIS CHARGES AGAINST SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET ARE THE INFORMATION IN THE DOCUMENTS HE HAS OBTAINED, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED, AND THE "CONFESSIONS" OF CAPTURED HOSTILE ELEMENTS. THE HOLY WAR OF WORDS IS EVIDENTLY TOURE'S WAY OF DEALING WITH WHAT HE BELIEVES IS A PRESENT CRISIS BY TAKING AN OFFENSIVE DEFENSE AGAINST HIS SUPPOSED ENEMIES. BY "REVEALING" THEIR INTENTIONS AND PLANS AND APPEALING TO THEIR OWN OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, TOURE PROBABLY BELIEVES HE CAN PREVENT HIS ENEMIES FROM ACTING AGAINST HIM AND POSSIBLY DIVERT THEM BY STIRRING UP A LITTLE TROUBLE IN THEIR OWN BACK YARD. SUCH PROVOCATION ON TOURE'S PART COULD IN MARXIST TERMS BE NOTHING MORE THAN AN AFFIRMATION THAT TOURE IS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF
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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT. OF COURSE, ANY EVIDENCE THAT TOURE'S MESSAGE HAD ANY EFFECT WOULD BRING TOURE AN EXTRA DIVIDEND. HE COULD PLAY UP SUCH A RESPONSE IN GUINEA FURTHER TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM HIS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND TO INSTILL YET A LITTLE MORE FEAR INTO THE GUINEAN POPULACE. IT WOULD ALSO LEND LUSTER TO HIS REPUTATION AS THE LEADER OF "PROGRESSIVE" AFRICA, WHICH IN TOURE'S VIEW HAS BEEN ON THE ASCENDENT IN CHAD, MAURITANIA, UGANDA, THE CAMEROON AND THE MALAGASY REPUBLIC. THE NEXT MOVE THAT SEEMS TO BE INDICATED IN THE CURRENT CRISES IS SOME ADDITIONAL ARRESTS OF ALLEGED INTERNAL ACCOMPLICES.

10. HOUPHOUET MAY HAVE HAD THE RIGHT IDEA IN NOT REPLYING TO TOURE'S CHARGES. THE LATEST CHAPTERS IN THE CURRENT SERIAL HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO ATTACKS ON SENGHOR AND HIS ANSWER TO EARLIER CHARGES WHILE HOUPHOUET'S NAME HAS ONLY BEEN MENTIONED RITUALISTICLY.
HAVERKAMP

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